

How to... Make the World Your Oyster

KING'S
College
LONDON

10 top tips from King's alumni on how to have an internationally focused career



Louis Owusu

Estimator at Eni Saipem,
London, United Kingdom

*BEng (Hons) Mechanical
Engineering (2010)*

It's important to spend some time where you'd like to work. This may mean doing an internship for a couple of weeks, or, even better, spending a year abroad as part of your course. **Improving your language skills will make you more attractive to international recruiters.** Studying in a foreign country is a good way to build up contacts, which can be essential in some countries.

I'd also say it's important to look at joining a firm with an international ambit. This will make working abroad much easier and give you exposure to a range of markets.



Lucy Le

Executive Senior Partner, Lucas
Group, Dallas, Texas, USA

*BA English Language and
Communication (2005)*

Take the opportunity to learn as much as you can, and **travel as much as you can!** You are building invaluable life skills and resume boosting qualities.



Caroline Lewis-Jones

Head of Humanities at
Franconian International
School, Erlangen, Germany

BA History (1998)

Having worked internationally for many years I think that **the key to success is flexibility and a willingness to get it wrong.** It's difficult to judge whether you will settle into a new country, particularly one which is very different from your own.

I'm a middle manager in teaching, and for me getting a firm grounding in the country's national system is important. That's something that applies to any career. With competency, an international move can be enjoyable and give you a much broader understanding of the issues which face different countries.



Katharina Handler

Analyst at Deloitte, Vienna,
Austria

*MSc Accounting,
Accountability & Financial
Management (2013)*

Take time to carefully plan your stay abroad. If possible, stay abroad for at least a year to really absorb the culture in the foreign country, to get to know the people and to gain a rich and diverse experience.

During the first weeks abroad, there may seem to be too many challenges and you might feel lonely. **Do not let yourself get discouraged;** everybody experiences these difficulties and has doubts, this is normal but nothing is permanent. By keeping an open, curious and proactive attitude and embracing your new life in this other country, you'll overcome these difficulties and soon start to feel at home.

Alumni Events

**How to...
Series**



Kayvan Hazemi Jebelli

Associate at Hogan Lovells,
Brussels, Belgium

LLM (2009)

Every career path is uniquely challenging, and the further you branch from home, the harder it gets. Supplement your lack of familiarity with mentors. **Network with people who have achieved the things that you want to achieve.**

King's has a great network of mentors and alumni (as well as a dedicated portal, *King's Connect*). Get in touch with them. Find them, ask them questions and listen to their advice.



Simisola Smith

International Marketing
Officer, King's College
London, based in Nigeria

*BSc (Hons) Biomedical
Science (2012)*

As an international student from Nigeria, I was slightly worried about my career options and life after King's. In my final year, I was fortunate to be elected Vice President Academic Affairs, becoming the first international student to win an election at King's. This was the beginning of my career in Higher Education. I'm now based in Nigeria working for the King's International Marketing Team.

It's always good to **build a strong foundation** in whatever you plan to go into. This will make you more marketable when seeking to go abroad.



Sol Bermejo

European Project Officer at
Xarxa FP, Barcelona, Spain

Humanities (2006)

Working abroad requires flexibility, the ability to adapt to change, problem-solving and team working – professional skills required in almost all careers.

International work experience will enable you to refine these skills and grow – personally and professionally – much more than spending twice as long in the same job at home.



Farhana Minaz Lalani

Doctor for the NHS, London,
United Kingdom

*BSc (Hons) Institute of
Psychiatry (2010)*

I have always found that being at King's was like having a taste of every corner of the globe; there are students from across the globe and you should tap into that. **Make friends with those from different parts of the world** and use that as an opportunity to broaden your horizons. Always take opportunities that will give you international exposure like volunteering abroad or doing an internship.



Eric Franco

Legal Superintendent,
EnerSur GDF Suez, Lima,
Peru

*MSc Construction Law &
Dispute Resolution (2008)*

I would say that **working abroad is even more important than studying abroad.**

Start planning and searching for opportunities one year ahead, right after (or before) you start your degree.

If you have the possibility, stay for longer than one year, at least two, because it will more than likely take you the first year to adapt and then during the second year you'll be acting more like a "local", worrying less about the logistics and more about your worklife itself.



Frederico Alcântara de Melo

Counsel at Council of
Europe Development Bank,
Paris, France

LLM (2007)

Working in international contexts requires curiosity. Curiosity will enable you to understand other people's personal and professional backgrounds and to be tolerated, understood and accepted.

Find your niche. The good thing about this is that it works both for your social life and the more technical aspects of your career, even before you actually get a job overseas. Think about it.